

## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

LET'S TALK ABOUT

# SEX + GENDER

Exploring the role of sex and gender on health research



## CHR D 2020: Abstract Submission Form

### Submitter Name

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### Title

Potential psychosocial impact of COVID-19 on children:  
A scoping review of historic pandemics

### Background

Physical distancing and public health measures, such as school closures and work-at-home mandates, implemented to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19, will likely have far-reaching impacts on children's psychosocial health and well-being.

### Objective

We examined the extant literature on historic pandemics to glean insight into potential impacts of COVID-19 on children's mental health and secondary outcomes, including nutritional, financial and safety outcomes.

### Methods

We performed a scoping review using an inclusive approach to search terms related to the outcomes of interest, in conjunction with historic epidemics and pandemics, and the current Coronavirus pandemic. Articles were searched within the Medline, Global Health, PsycINFO, and CINAHL databases on June 11th, 2020. Gray literature was also examined from the World Health Organization and United Nations International Children's Fund until July 24th, 2020. A total of 7,919 academic and 415 articles from additional sources were reviewed by two independent reviewers. All study results pertaining to child outcomes were extracted and organized.

### Results

73 articles met inclusion criteria and were included. Collective findings support that, during pandemics/epidemics children have faced significant challenges with 12% of articles indicating depression, 21% anxiety, 7% grief, 10% stress-related disorders, 25% child abuse, 8% family conflict, and 12% stigma. Furthermore, 25% indicated economic challenges, 23% negative academic impacts, 33% improper nutrition, and 21% reduced opportunities for play/increased screen time. These challenges appear

exacerbated among children who are female, a migrant/displaced child, have a disability, or are from socioeconomically disadvantaged households.

### Conclusion

Historic epidemics/pandemics have had diverse and widespread negative consequences on children. Consequently, parents, educators and politicians ought to proceed cautiously with eventual school reopenings, observe changes in children's behaviours carefully and seek out supports for them when necessary. Particular attention is warranted for children with pre-existing vulnerabilities to limit the disproportionate impact of COVID-19.

### Theme:

Community Health / Policy

### Do you have a table/figure to upload?

No

### Are you willing to participate in Goodbear's Den?

Yes

### Presenter Status:

Undergraduate Students

### What was your role in the project?

Design, data collection, analysis and writing the final manuscript and abstract.

## Authors

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